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RICARD LARMA/METRO

It's official, Philly is fashionable!

(Why? Because designer Nicole Miller said so.)

Famed designer with Philly roots touts 'hip aspect' in our fashion sense Kicks off annual Philadelphia Collection event by honoring city's 'most fashionable' women {page 02}

Sports

Birds good enough to best Reid

The Eagles' talent is so great they can even overcome their coach Angelo Cataldi gives his take {page 15}

Outgrowing her awkward phase?

This is Ali Lohan, as pictured last week — her reps say it's natural {page 09}

Let this type of 'Bedbugs' bite

'Sense, Sensibility and Sea Monsters' author takes on pesky little creatures {page 11}

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So, wait, Philly has style, Nicole?

Famed designer with local roots says comparisons to NYC aren't fair In town for kickoff to a 13-day fashion event, Nicole Miller touted how we 'dress pretty with a hip aspect'

PHOTOS: BIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Bhavna Shyalaman, a psychologist and wife of film director M. Night, was among 19 of Philadelphia's "most fashionable" women honored at the opening of the 13-day Philadelphia Collection. Designer Nicole Miller, right, presented the women last night.

Nicole Miller was in town yesterday to kick off the Philadelphia Collection — a 13-day series of local fashion events — with a celebration of the 19 most fashionable women in the city.

"I actually think Philadelphia is a lot less crunchy than other cities," Miller said. "Some have gotten too casual. Here, people get a little more dressed up. Women like to dress pretty with a hip aspect."

So why have we gotten such a bad sartorial rap?

"Philadelphia is in such close proximity to New York, I think there ends up being competition," Miller said. "Places like Chicago and L.A. aren't so close, so they don't have to contend with that comparison."

Miller may be biased — her father was born here and many of her relatives go "way back."

"I have deep roots," she said. But the iconic designer praised the city's small secondhand stores.

"I've found inspiration here in the past from a vintage store and craft shop," she said. "I used to shop at vintage stores in Manayunk often, but I'm never here just to shop anymore."

Miller is quick to point out that she didn't select the women recognized. "If I had to choose, I would make sure the women were doing something interesting," she said. "I'd look for an independent spirit. Fashionable women create their own style. It's all about confidence."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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Quoted

"It is astonishing. It's astounding to me. It just makes me shake my head."

RICHARD ROSS, CITY DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER ON RECENT VIOLENCE, INCLUDING FIVE MURDERS SUNDAY

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HOW DOES THE 'AVERAGE' PHILLY GIRL COMPARE TO THESE STYLE MAVENS?

'Most fashionable'

▶ Pronger

- **Lisa Nutter**, first lady of Philadelphia
- **Lauren Pronger**, wife of Philadelphia Flyer Chris Pronger
- **Karen Dougherty Buchholz**, Comcast VP
- **Bhavna Shyamalan**, wife of director M. Night Shyamalan
- **Nicole Cashman**, Cashman & Associates
- **Joan and Ellen Shepp**, owners of Joan Shepp Betty Dessert Boutique
- **Norinda Brown**, Brown
- **Beka Rendell**, daughter-in-law of former governor
- **Nydia Han**, Action News anchor
- **Risa Vetri Ferman**, district attorney of Montgomery County
- **Sharon Quick**, Rotary Club of Philadelphia
- **Rakia Reynolds**, Skai Blue Media
- **Tina Wells**, Buzz Marketing Group

▶ Rendell

- **Sabrina Tamburino Thorne**, wife of auto-parts magnate Steve Thorne
- **Dr. DaCarla Albright**, Penn Medicine
- **Lilliana Vazquez**, fashion blogger
- **Holly Kinser**, Wojdak & Associates
- **Alana Tosti**, Philadelphia Wedding
- **Randee Janiszewski**, Janiszewski Insurance Agency

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City needs better schools to grow

Report says improving school system is best way to keep population growth going Center City, in particular, could see huge spike in school-age children

What's the best way to maintain the population growth Center City has seen over the last decade? Improve neighborhood public schools, a new report says.

The city's population increased by 16.3 percent in the core of downtown between 2000 and 2010, and about 10 percent in an expanded area from Girard to Tasker. A report from Center City District indicates that growth could mean a 66 percent increase in school-age children in the core and 32 percent in the extended area if those families choose to stay in the city.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Levy

"Providing quality schools is a way of stabilizing the work force," said Paul Levy, president and CEO of CCD, a business improvement district. "We finally turned around the population loss. We're in the knowledge economy. This is, I think, a huge opportunity to build and expand on that."

Levy has suggested a partnership with the Philadelphia School District that he says would benefit both disadvantaged families who are dissatisfied with neighborhood schools and families considering leaving the city for better education options. He said district officials have not yet responded. A message left for district officials went unreturned yesterday.

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RIKARD LARMA/METRO

Cuisine. 'Dumb food'

▶ A TruTV.com blogger has ripped 15 hometown dishes that she dubbed disgusting, including our famous cheesesteak.

Picking on cheesesteaks

"Philly cheesesteaks have forced the people of Philadelphia to become experts at administering CPR," blogger Brooke Van Poppelen writes on her Dumb as a Blog. Her post includes New York City's bagels with lox, Boston's clam chowder, and San Diego's fish tacos in "Why your signature food is dumb." METRO/YD

Strike, classes are still on at Catholic schools

PHILADELPHIA. High school students in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia returned to classes yesterday on the seventh day of the teachers strike.

The work stoppage involves more than 700 teachers represented by the Association of Catholic Teachers. The two sides remain far apart on several issues, including pay, job security and technology use in the classroom.

The archdiocese has said it hopes to avoid a disruption to classes, but it will decide daily if it has enough staff to keep schools open. METRO/BXM

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Giffords to give first TV interview in November

LOS ANGELES. Gabrielle Giffords, the Arizona congresswoman who survived an assassination attempt in January, will give her first television interview since the shooting to ABC journalist Diane Sawyer in November, ABC News said yesterday.

Giffords and her astronaut husband Mark Kelly will talk about her recovery from a near-fatal shot to the head in a TV special to be broadcast on Nov. 14.

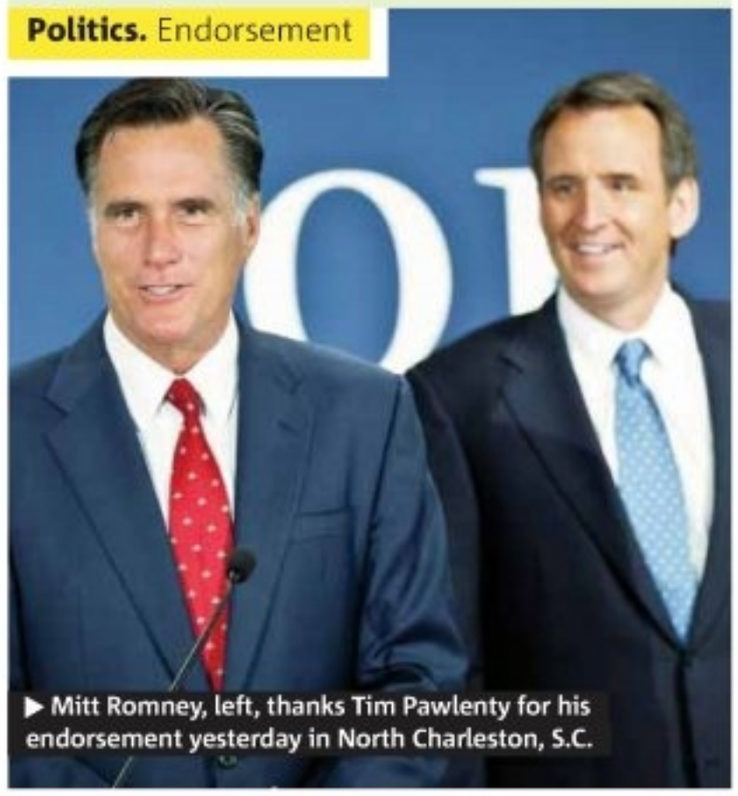
The interview will be aired in conjunction with the release on Nov. 15 of a memoir by the couple called "Gabby: A Story of Courage and Hope."

Giffords, 41, has made few public appearances since being shot while holding a political event in Tucson on Jan. 8.

REUTERS

RICHARD ELLIS/GETTY IMAGES

Politics. Endorsement



▶ Mitt Romney, left, thanks Tim Pawlenty for his endorsement yesterday in North Charleston, S.C.

Pawlenty: Choose Mitt

Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty endorsed ex-rival Mitt Romney for the Republican presidential nomination yesterday and was promptly named a national co-chairman of the Romney campaign. Pawlenty told Fox News that Romney is unmatched in his skills and experience at creating jobs and igniting the economy. REUTERS

Obama: Let's avoid 'political games'

- GOP open to legislation but not completely convinced
- President's re-election may hinge on $447B jobs plan

President Barack Obama called on Republicans not to play "political games" with his jobs plan as he pressed for swift passage of a $447 billion package he hopes will revive the U.S. economy and boost his re-election prospects.

Four days after challenging Congress to act in a televised address, Obama stepped up his campaign to sell his proposals to American voters as he prepared to send the jobs bill to lawmakers yesterday.

"This is a bill that is based on ideas from both Democrats and Republicans, and this is a bill that Congress needs to pass — no games, no politics, no delays," Obama said in an appearance in the White House Rose Garden, holding up a thick text of the legislation held together with a black clip.

Taxes for jobs

President Barack Obama yesterday proposed paying for his jobs plan by eliminating $467 billion in tax breaks for wealthier Americans and corporations, triggering a new battle with Republicans in Congress.

The president, who pushed through an $800 billion economic stimulus package in 2009, will see his re-election chances hinging heavily on his ability to reduce stubbornly high unemployment rates, now above 9 percent.

Cooperation in Washington could be hard to find in a climate of dysfunction where a nasty feud over the government's debt levels this summer brought the country to the brink of default and led to an unprecedented U.S. credit downgrade.

Top Republicans have said they are open to some aspects of the Obama jobs plan but are not convinced the infrastructure and other stimulus spending is a good idea — given it would further swell budget deficits in the near term. REUTERS

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Student aid default up

WASHINGTON. Borrowers defaulted on federal student loans at an 8.8 percent rate for fiscal 2009, up from 7 percent a year earlier, the U.S. Education Department said yesterday. The statistic covers borrowers whose first loan repayments were due during the year that ended Sept. 30, 2009, and who had defaulted by Sept. 30, 2010. About 320,000 out of 3.6 million borrowers in that group were in default, which the department defines as being 270 days late on a payment. **BLOOMBERG**

BofA to cut 30K jobs

NEW YORK. Bank of America said it is cutting 30,000 jobs in the coming years as it looks to slash annual expenses by $5 billion, but investors were disappointed in the scant new detail the bank provided about its plans. The bank's chief executive said Bank of America is focusing for now on cutting costs in consumer banking and is taking steps like combining data centers to reach its target. Bank of America's shares have lost more than half their value this year. **REUTERS**

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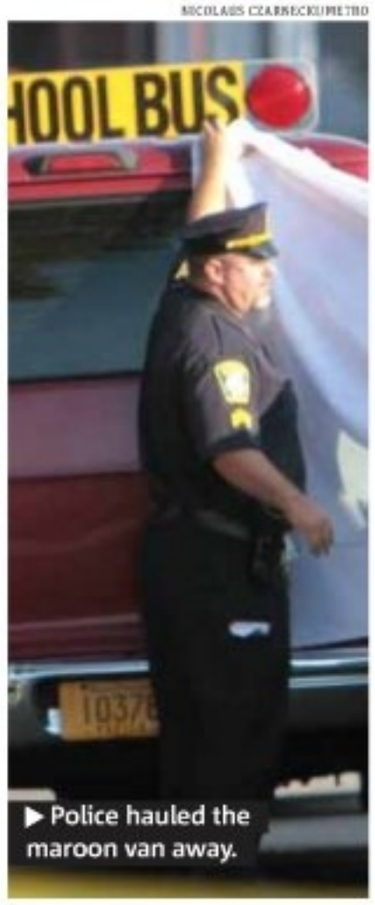
Dead toddler discovered in Boston day care van

Details still unclear in case of 13-month-old who died in Massachusetts Driver of vehicle found with body

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO



▶ Police hauled the maroon van away.

While police were investigating the death of a 13-month-old boy found inside a school van, city officials were looking into a day care connected to the fatality.

The boy was found inside a van parked in front of Gloria Luna's Family Day Care, which has multiple violations, city officials said.

Officers responded to an emergency call about 3:30 p.m. and found the boy in the maroon passenger van, police said. It was unclear how long he was left inside the van. "We don't know how long, but it was a significant amount of time," said Police Commissioner Ed Davis.

When officers arrived at the scene they found the boy inside and unresponsive. Medical personnel pronounced the boy dead at the scene.

Quoted

"I don't understand how they can not see a child on the bus." EBONY SMITH

The driver of the van was found outside of it when police arrived. He was taken to a hospital with chest pains, police said.

Davis said the van driver was the husband of the woman who runs the day care. It was unclear if the boy attended the day care or should have been transported to another facility.

According to state Executive Office of Education, the day care has a capacity of 10 and was first licensed in 2002. Its license was renewed in June and it charges $150 per week, according to the state.

"It should be mandatory they check the buses," said Ebony Smith, who was standing outside the scene with one of her children.

A woman who answered the phone at the day care referred questions to police, according to the Globe.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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Gaddafi forces kill 17 at oil refinery

RAS LANUF, LIBYA. Muammar Gaddafi loyalists killed 17 guards outside an oil refinery yesterday in an apparent attempt to disrupt a drive by Libya's new rulers to revive the economy. A television station that has broadcast messages from Gaddafi in the past said he was still in Libya. **REUTERS**

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THE DAY'S NEWS AT A GLANCE

Dozens found dead in Kenya slum fire

NAIROBI. At least 75 bodies have been recovered after gasoline in a sewer caught fire and sent a wave of flame through a densely populated slum in the Kenyan capital, police said yesterday. Kenyan media said more than 100 people were burned to death. **REUTERS**

Accidental death at French nuke site

MARCOULE, FRANCE. A worker was killed in an explosion at a French nuclear waste site yesterday, but officials said there was no radioactive leak and the authorities quickly declared the emergency over. Four people were also injured, one with serious burns, in the blast at the Centraco site. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Banon

DSK investigated over rape complaint

PARIS. Former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn was questioned by French police yesterday over a complaint of attempted rape, filed after his May arrest in New York in a separate sex assault case that forced him to resign but was later dropped.

Tristane Banon, a journalist and writer some 30 years his junior, says Strauss-Kahn assaulted her in 2003 in a Paris apartment where he had invited her to interview him. **REUTERS**

Dad: Winehouse's death from seizure was booze related

The father of British singer Amy Winehouse said he believed his daughter died of a seizure brought on by ending years of binge drinking.

In his first major TV interview since the death of Winehouse, Mitch Winehouse told U.S. journalist Anderson Cooper that illicit drugs had nothing to do with her sudden passing at her London home in July.

Mitch Winehouse said the only drug in her system was the prescription medication Librium, which is used to help people with the symptoms of alcohol detoxification.

"She'd been clean [of drugs] for around three years. ... Her problem was alcohol, the last few years of her life ... She was prescribed Librium, which is given to people who are detoxing and it kind of decreases the chances of having seizures. She was continuing to take one of those pills every day.

"She had a series of seizures brought on by this binge drinking and then stopping to drink. ... I think it's what the doctor said, I think she had a seizure and this was the time when there was no one there to rescue her," Winehouse told Cooper yesterday.

Winehouse's addiction to drugs and drink was well chronicled in the media and in her own hit songs like "Rehab." **REUTERS**

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

▶ MTV staged a tribute to Amy Winehouse during the 2011 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles.

Let the Weight Be Over

"Unlike most people struggling with morbid obesity, I did not find myself hindered by diabetes, hypertension, sleep apnea, or any of the illnesses that strike the obese. What I did have was a family history of diabetes, hypertension, sleep apnea, and arthritis – brought on by obesity – and a personal history of unsuccessful attempts at conventional weight loss methods.

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BEFORE

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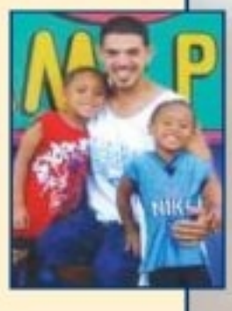
AFTER



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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

FARRELLS AGENCY

▶ Ali Lohan on Saturday during Fashion Week and back in 2009 (inset).

Ali Lohan's dramatic about-face

Just when you think the Lohan family couldn't get more effed up (I was pretty sure that happened when **Michael Lohan** underwent training to become a minister; how wrong I was!), new photos of **Ali Lohan**'s, 17, new face hit the Internet.

But don't worry! Her dramatic about-face has nothing to do with plastic surgery. Her PR rep swears it.

"Aliana has never had any type of plastic surgery in her life, nor has she ever considered it," said her publicist, **Steve Honig**. "During the past two years, she has gone through a normal teenage growth spurt that has made her taller and slimmer," he said. "It has also slightly changed the composure of her face, all of which is typical of what happens to kids in their mid- to late-teens. It's what most people refer to as the awkward stage. Ali is growing up; that's all."

Look. The girl is 17 years old. Wolf-children probably have more guidance while growing up than Ali Lohan. It's not fair to poke fun at a young girl getting radical plastic surgery in order to fit into the Hollywood ideal as pretty much being the definition of "sad." So instead, we'll make fun of her PR person. Really dude — it's her "awkward" phase? When I went through my "awkward" phase, I resembled Chunk from "The Goonies," not a runway model. But I guess we can't all be so, um, lucky?

Actor Andy Whitfield dies

Some sad news out of Hollywood yesterday. "Spartacus: Blood and Sand" star **Andy Whitfield**, who had to bow out of subsequent seasons of the Roman TV series due to his battle with cancer, passed away at the age of 39, the series' network, Starz, confirms. "We are deeply saddened by the loss of our dear friend and colleague, Andy Whitfield," Starz chief **Chris Albrecht** says in a statement. "Andy was an inspiration to all of us as he faced this very personal battle with courage, strength and grace."

Andy Whitfield

The feed ...

▶ Our Metro correspondent at the Toronto Film Festival is enjoying hobnobbing with all the famous faces in town for the fest. Here's a look at what a few of them are saying on Twitter.

▶ **@InStyle**
Freida Pinto's Toronto Film Festival wardrobe got stuck in customs, but she survived!

▶ **@StacyKeibler**
Loved my vintage @armani dress last night. Thinking about wearing @armani again tonight :) Having a blast at #TIFF

▶ **@BeautyandDirt (Mimi):** Just seen Friends With Kids + Q&A with writer, Jennifer Westfeldt & her partner Jon Hamm, this movie will get a lot of love. #TIFF

▶ **@andrew tmccarthy:** Headed up to #Toronto today for the film festival. A nice film I did called "Brooklyn Brothers Beat the Best" premiers tonight. #TIFF

Andrew McCarthy

Talking points

Lopez and Cooper on a date?

Jennifer Lopez reportedly shared an intimate dinner recently with **Bradley Cooper** recently, leading many to speculate that she's moving on from her divorce from **Marc Anthony** with the "Hangover" star, according to TMZ. The pair shared a "romantic" meal at posh restaurant Per Se, sources tell the website.

Wood's version of the 'tooth'

Evan Rachel Wood celebrated a bit too much for her 24th birthday recently, resulting in a lost tooth, the actress confessed at the Toronto International Film Festival. "I'll never forget my 24th birthday when my tooth got punched out," she says. "I was like, it would be really hilarious if I sold it on eBay. But I can't, that's just too creepy." As for the circumstances surrounding the tooth's removal? "It was just past midnight and I was dancing with my friends in Paris," she explains. "And just boom, I caught an elbow right in the left side of my face."

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DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

Evan Rachel Wood

Clooney's newest arm candy

George Clooney and **Stacy Keibler** have decided to use the opportunity of the Toronto International Film Festival to go public with their rumored romance, according to Us Weekly. The pair made the rounds for Clooney's two films at the festival, "The Ides of March" and "The Descendants," hitting up several parties. "One of the reoccurring themes of the night was that Stacy had her own conversations going on and that she wasn't following Clooney around like a puppy dog," a source says. "The two clearly work not only as a pair, but also independently. [Stacy] really stood on her own. George was not overprotective and didn't have to look after her."

myentertainment

Emmys, TIFF and Fashion Week

ALMA Awards held at Santa Monica Civic Auditorium on Sunday in Santa Monica, Calif.

1: And this is why Fashion Week is awesome: Nicki Minaj sat next to Anna Wintour at the Carolina Herrera Spring 2012 fashion show on Monday in New York.

2: Prince Harry gives a thumbs-up during a fundraising day at the offices of BGC Partners on behalf of his charity Sentebale in Canary Wharf on Monday in London.

3: Melissa McCarthy and Jane Lynch attend Audi and David Yurman Kick Off Emmy Week 2011 and Support Tuesday's Children at Cecconi's Restaurant on Sunday in Los Angeles.

4: Actress Jessica Alba, nearly one month after giving birth, accepted the Favorite Drama/Adventure Movie Actress award onstage during the 2011 NCLR

5: Musician John Legend and actress Kim Cattrall walked the red carpet at Cinema Against AIDS Toronto 2011, benefitting amfAR and Dignitas, at Ryerson Theatre on Sunday in Toronto, Canada.

6: Mandy Moore posed backstage at the Lela Rose Spring 2012 fashion show during Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week at The Studio at Lincoln Center on Sunday in New York.

7: Actress Juliette Lewis attended the "Martha Marcy May Marlene" premiere at Ryerson Theatre during the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival on Sunday in Toronto.

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mybooks

When the bedbugs do bite

As anyone who has ever had the pest can attest — bedbugs are a true horror story But wait until you read the new thriller, 'Bedbugs: A Novel' Author Ben H. Winters elevates our anxiety to new levels

It seems like a dream — a huge, two-bedroom in Brooklyn available for next to nothing. Of course, Alex and Susan Wendt, characters in the new novel "Bedbugs" jump at it. But like all things real estate, there's no such thing as too good of a deal: The Wendts' new home seems to be infested with bedbugs. Or is it? Could it be Susan is imagining it all? Ben H. Winters (author of the hit hybrid "Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters") takes the anxiety of apartment living to new heights with his thriller, "Bedbugs: A Novel." Here is his method behind the itchiness:

Winters

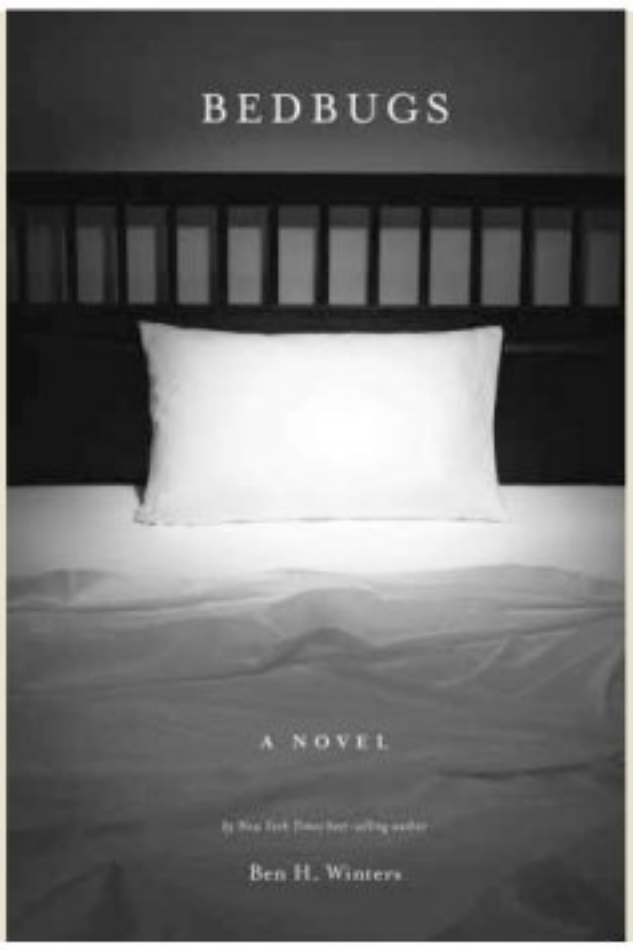
What makes an excellent thriller:
"For me, a great thriller takes something that is already present in our life and then heightens and elevates it. Like 'Jaws' or 'Cujo.' It takes that feeling of anxiety and fear and then just pushes it and pushes it and pushes it."

How bedbugs make the perfect monster:
"They are just rife with anxiety. Think about it: They come in the dark and are so hard to get rid of. We already live in such close quarters, so there is the dirtiness that seems to radiate out of these little bugs. It feels so outside of our control and unsettling that there are little things that could be crawling on us and [we don't] even know it."

They are also the perfect literary device:
"It's the tradition like 'The Turn of the Screw,' or 'The Yellow Wallpaper' — they are going through this horror but [Alex] can't get anyone to help her and she can't escape because where will she go? She has bedbugs. She is unwelcome in friends' homes."

How things got scary even for him:
"Once you start reading about [bedbugs] online, you can't stop thinking about them. I started kind of freaking out — imagining I was itching, noticing little marks on my body. I've never had them, thank God. And hopefully I will have warned them off by writing about them."

DOROTHY ROBINSON
dorothy.robinson@metro.us



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mystyle

Fashion Week reviews

1 Diane von Furstenberg: In the sea of prints that New York Fashion Week has become, Diane von Furstenberg's (unsurprisingly) stood out. They came in soft pastels or pops of blue, yellow and orange (another recurring theme this week). The best moments were the unexpected, tomboyish ones such as a pair of checked shorts in lime and maroon paired with a neon green button-down shirt, maroon blazer and graphic loafers. It was a refreshing contrast to her trademark feminine dresses.

KENYA HUNT

2 Zac Posen: The terrace at Avery Fisher Hall at twilight was the perfect setting to showcase Zac Posen's return to NYFW (the designer took his show to Paris the past two seasons). Beautiful and skillfully constructed cocktail dresses and evening gowns cinched the waistline and celebrated a woman's curves. There were glamorous mermaid shapes, structured corsets and dramatic trains. Watching the girls appear in these fantastical gowns felt like being in a princess's salon before a grand ball. No one will forget a woman who wears one of these.

TINA CHADHA

3 Tracy Reese: An eternal romantic, Reese set out to "embody the relaxed mood of the season" through girly dresses, skirts and jumpsuits in vintage shapes. During some moments, her clothes — such as a lean, maxi skirt with lace insets, and a bow-embellished striped tee — brought to mind a summer holiday in 1930s South of France. Other looks, such as a billowing floral-print blouse and blue leather shorts, felt completely now.

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TV watch list

THE CW
▶ Sarah Michelle Geller stars as Siobhan Martin/Bridget Kelly on "Ringer."

'90210'

DRAMA. The gang graduated high school and is off to college, but not all Bev Hill'ers will be leaving town in tonight's premiere.
Season premiere, 8 p.m., The CW

'Ringer'

DRAMA. Sarah Michelle Gellar returns to TV as identical twins who alternately alienate and take advantage of each other, courtesy of distractingly subpar special effects. There's "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"-like suspense, but a lot of melodrama, in tonight's premiere. A cliffhanger at the end of the hour drives interest to keep watching, but if you're not a member of the SMG army with an unwavering crush on the cult actress, it might not be enough to keep interest over an entire season.
Series premiere, 9 p.m., The CW

'Parenthood'

DRAMA. Sarah celebrates her 40th birthday while daughter Amber gets her first apartment. Is that her birthday present?
Season premiere, 10 p.m., NBC

AMBER RAY

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Work together or get out!

The president has challenged Congress — and that means both political parties — to come up with a plan to create jobs and put Americans back to work. That would mean the Republicans, whose top priority is to make sure Obama is a one-term president, will have to stop and work with Democrats to get the job done before we become a fully accredited Third World nation. This means both parties have to stop the sniping and name-calling and finger-pointing. Both parties know it can be done. We Americans have had it with partisan politics. Set all your hard feelings aside and get to work!

HERBERT W. STARK, VIA E-MAIL

Violence can be the answer

RE: "VIOLENCE IS NEVER DESERVED": Mr. Paul Simons, are you aware that this is 2011? What world do you live in where people never retaliate? If America wants to constantly poke, prod and antagonize — aka bully — other countries, then they should expect retaliation. I don't condone the cowardly 9/11 attack, but when a kid gets bullied for so long, the victim will strike back! And as for defending women who dress a certain way: If they weren't wearing such revealing outfits, it would decrease the rape amounts, drastically. Continue defending antagonizers, they need all the help they can get!

RANDALL EPHRAIM, VIA E-MAIL

To the Quaker statement about America's Sept. 11 response that "there are no 'just wars.'": No practicing pacifist, Quaker or otherwise, ever liberated a death camp.

GILBERT COLON, VIA E-MAIL

Tea Party: For the rich only

Are Tea Party supporters for the hardworking middle class and poor people of this great nation — or for the greedy profiteering corporations hoarding trillions of dollars and not hiring in America? How are TP supporters doing so well in this economy that they can donate millions of dollars, yet every other American is living paycheck to paycheck? The debt-ceiling debacle revealed the true nature of the TP and their congressional caucus — that the people are not a priority to them, just keeping their tax breaks and keeping the corporate welfare train moving. Votes speak for themselves: You are clearly against the American people!

ANTONIO BENJAMIN, VIA E-MAIL

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Horoscope

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** By putting too much pressure on someone who is indebted to you, you might cause him or her to go underground. Let up a little.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** If the entire household doesn't handle the family funds in a prudent manner, it could quickly become an abrasive issue. Each person must be fair about what is his or her share.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** It behooves you to set a good example, because persons who are working at your side will emulate your behavior. If you do little, so will they — and nothing will get done.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Unless you champion your own cause, what you accomplish may not be noticed — and it isn't likely you'll be properly compensated for your services. Speak up!

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Make it very clear to youngsters in your charge that certain rules have been laid down for their own good. Unless they understand the necessity, they could be troublemakers.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Unfortunately, it is rarely smart to try to even up an old score with someone who has wronged us in the past.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Again, you might be unduly generous to the wrong people. Stop ignoring the deserving who say nothing while catering to the manipulators who won't stop complaining.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Unless you first clarify your goals, you could end up wasting valuable time on projects or objectives that yield very little satisfaction. Make a list and stick to it.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Those who work at your side could find you difficult person to please, unless you take it upon yourself to first lay all your cards out on the table.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** If circumstances compel you to operate on a limited budget, you should stick to your guns and proceed shrewdly. You could quickly go into a hole trying to keep up with others.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** What should be an excellent partnership arrangement could fizzle if you and your cohort aren't operating in harmony. Make certain you and your partner are of one mind.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Although it may be a good idea to delegate some of your duties and responsibilities to others, be extremely careful whom you choose. If they can't be relied upon, they'll leave you in the lurch. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

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Across
1 Chicken style
5 Smiled suddenly (2 wds.)
10 Push a raft
14 Seacoast eagle
15 Treat badly
16 Kind of rug
17 Not e'en once
18 Good insulator
20 Pool-table surface
22 Low point in a process
23 Mariachi gig
25 Cartoon chipmunk
26 Muffin morsel
27 Fish choice
28 Dainty pastry
32 Maui dance
33 Shake off
35 Lots and lots
36 Pierre's here
37 Galleon cargo
38 1101, to Brutus
39 Monthly expense
41 Lightweight wood
43 Transvaal settler
44 Cooler or jug
45 911 responder
46 Full skirt
48 Orbit segments
50 False front
51 Plaster
54 Sneezy's pal
55 Equivalent
57 Excessively sentimental
61 Priest's calendar
62 Dodge, as taxes
63 Soir follower
64 Third-rate
65 Kind of buffet
66 Encircle

Down
1 Mammoth Cave loc.
2 Spleen
3 Flight dir.
4 Fragrant garden plant
5 Pirate Jean __
6 Spanish resort island
7 Float downriver
8 Wear and tear
9 Be present throughout
10 Warehouse platforms
11 Kind of tradition
12 __ majeste
13 Not hard
19 Hoedown honey
21 Tempe sch.
23 Water source
24 Urbana eleven
25 Extinct birds
26 Rotates with a buzz
27 Ringlets
29 Amaretto flavor
30 Ebb
31 Pirouette
34 Fertile soils
40 One-seated vehicle
41 Looks good on
42 Conformed
43 Laughing loudly
47 Clinch a deal
49 TV brand
50 "Klute" star
51 Organ valve
52 Poi base
53 Open
54 Twofold
56 Caviar, actually
58 __ bono (who profits?)
59 White wine aperitif
60 From Jan. 1 till now

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

■	J	A	R	■	E	J	E	C	T	■	F	A	N	S
G	O	N	E	■	M	A	C	H	U	■	E	T	A	L
N	U	N	C	■	A	M	O	U	R	■	R	A	K	E
P	R	A	I	R	I	E	■	G	N	A	R	L	E	D
■	■	■	T	U	L	S	A	■	B	U	I	L	D	S
J	E	W	E	L	S	■	S	H	A	K	E	■	■	■
A	R	I	D	E	■	E	P	I	C	■	S	O	U	P
V	I	N	■	S	H	R	I	E	K	S	■	A	N	A
A	C	D	C	■	E	A	R	S	■	A	T	T	I	C
■	■	■	O	R	A	T	E	■	B	U	R	S	T	S
K	I	S	M	E	T	■	S	T	E	N	O	■	■	■
E	N	A	B	L	E	S	■	H	E	A	T	H	E	R
B	A	L	I	■	D	R	O	O	P	■	T	O	N	E
A	N	O	N	■	U	T	I	L	E	■	E	B	O	N
B	E	N	E	■	P	A	L	E	D	■	D	O	W	■

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Opinion

ANGELO CATALDI
THE VOICE OF THE PHILLY SPORTS FAN

OVERCOMING EVEN THEIR COACHING

Have the Eagles finally found the cure for Andy Reid? Have they created a team so talented the coach can't possibly screw it up? It sure looked that way during Sunday's season opener in St. Louis.

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Just consider for a moment how the Eagles played in the first few minutes after Reid's stirring pregame speech, when they allowed a sack of Mike Vick, shanked a punt and then gave up a 47-yard touchdown run to Steven Jackson on the first St. Louis play from scrimmage. Reid is not exactly Knute Rockne, is he?

Or consider the fact the Birds ran out of timeouts with 3:40 left in the first half because of confusion with the play-calling, or the two delay of game penalties, or the failed officials' challenge. These are all classic Reid mistakes — blunders that he never has, and never will, fix.

And in this first game of a promising season, none of it mattered. Mike Vick provided the talent and the leadership to overcome all obstacles in a 31-13 victory that was as easy as that score suggests. Wide receiver DeSean Jackson was extraordinary when he needed to be, running back LeSean McCoy took over the game in the fourth quarter, and the cornerback troika simply smothered the Rams.

The more difficult Reid seemed to make it for his roster, the more they responded with the perfect antidote — talent. The most revealing moment was the 41-yard pass from Vick to DeSean Jackson that changed the momentum after Steven Jackson's run. Vick darted around a swarm of rushers before launching a rainbow, while Jackson jumped between two defenders and snatched the ball away.

Quoted

"There may be a new and exciting twist this season."

No other quarterback could have bought the time to make that throw, and few other receivers could have elevated as high for that ball. That play spoke volumes about the Eagles this year. Their best hope is that they can simply outdazzle opponents.

And they will have to do that because of Reid. The coach clearly has learned from some of his mistakes — remember when he didn't value athletic receivers? — but he remains an enigma when it comes to the simple art of managing time.

If you have been watching the Eagles during the 12-plus seasons Reid has been coaching, you already know that. But there may be a new and exciting twist this season. This might be the year when change isn't needed. This might be the year when an overabundance of talent covers up all flaws.

The Eagles may finally have done it. They may finally have put together a roster so good, even Andy Reid can't screw it up.

*– **Angelo Cataldi** is the host of 610 WIP's Morning Show, which airs weekdays 5:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.*

LaMar is the man behind the team

GETTY IMAGES

▶ LaMar

Most baseball executives wait a lifetime without ever experiencing the kind of dream season the Phillies are having right now. So why did Chuck LaMar, a baseball lifer, walk away from it all last week?

The Phillies assistant GM, whose primary responsibility for the past five years was the minor leagues, held a closed-door meeting with GM Ruben Amaro Jr. and then abruptly announced he was leaving the Phillies. The speculation is that LaMar wanted more of a financial commitment to developing young players than the organization could provide.

If anyone had a thankless job in this time of unprecedented prosperity, it was LaMar, a former GM in Tampa and a brilliant evaluator of talent. Year after year, the Phillies have traded their top prospects for established stars (Cliff Lee, Roy Halladay and Hunter Pence, to name just a few.) As win-now fans, we all applauded those moves. Obviously, LaMar did not.

But to leave when the best part of a historical season is ahead makes no sense at all. LaMar, an honest and accessible voice in an organization that has become fickle about the truth, is going to be forgotten now, a victim of his own undeniable success.

Well, he shouldn't be. It's up to the fans to remember how the Phillies got where they are today.

Idle thoughts from Cataldi ...

1 DeSean's deal is DeSean's fault. Pardon me if I'm the one media member not shedding any tears over DeSean Jackson's bad contract. Yes, he's underpaid, but holding out the way he did is not the answer, nor is pouting. He signed the deal. If he wants to blame anyone, he should start with himself.

2 Nothing surprising here. ESPN is going to pay close to $2 billion a year to broadcast Monday Night Football. That's *b*illion. Quite a coincidence that the agreement came so soon after the lockout ended, wasn't it? Boy, it's a good thing the owners got all of those financial concessions from the players.

3 Thank goodness for Twitter. Milwaukee outfielder Nyjer Morgan got into a skirmish with St. Louis first baseman Albert Pujols last week, then continued the fight on Twitter, calling the big slugger "Alberta" and referring to him as "she." How did we ever survive without witty patter like this before Twitter?

RICARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Joe West ignored baseball's replay rules last week.

How are these guys keeping their jobs?

Joe West and C.B. Bucknor are horrible at their jobs, and yet somehow they have a combined 47 years working as umpires in the big leagues. Granted, they may be part of a powerful union that protects them from their own brazen incompetence, but the matter goes much deeper than that.

It speaks volumes about the head-in-the-sand tenure of Bud Selig as commissioner.

Last week, West ignored the rules of TV replay and checked on a double by Phils outfielder Hunter Pence. According to the written laws of baseball, only home run calls are reviewable. Ultimately, West ruled Pence out on fan interference, then covered himself by claiming there was some question about whether the ball was over the wall when a fan reached out.

A few days later, Bucknor ruled that Atlanta outfielder Justin Heyward had caught a line drive before it hit the ground in a game against the Phils. Like many plays in Bucknor's error-prone past, the call was then overturned after a huddle of the umps.

Baseball commissioners love to preach about how nothing is more important than the best interests of the game. If Selig really believes that, he will find a way to eradicate these two blights.

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Welcome to Atlanta

CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Vick returns to Atlanta as a starter for the first time.

- Vick returns to his former home
- Reid not worried about his QB

It's the second time in three years Mike Vick will play the Falcons as an opposing QB. But this time, it counts.

Vick, who appeared in mop-up duty when the Eagles and Falcons met in 2009, will be the starter Sunday night at the Georgia Dome. Two years ago, he teared up on the bus ride — and that was without even knowing if he'd see a snap.

On Sunday, he's guaranteed to see at least four quarters. Coach Andy Reid knows the significance, but isn't worried as Vick returns to the city where his NFL career started.

"Well, you know, you've got to kind of put that part out of your mind and focus in on the game plan, and he'll do that," Reid said yesterday. "He's played in some big games before. He's the kind of guy that you've got to kind of boot out of here. He's always around and wanting to make sure he has everything down pat. That's what he'll focus in on initially and then he goes and plays."

71
Touchdown passes as a member of the Falcons. Vick played 74 games for Atlanta in six seasons. Vick has 24 TD passes as an Eagle.

MIKE GREGER
mgreger@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Manning was outplayed by Rex Grossman.

Manning, Giants go back to basics

It's a good thing the Giants have an extra day to prepare for next Monday's game because they'll need it to eliminate the stench from Sunday's opener.

Eli Manning was outdone by journeyman Rex Grossman and both Big Blue running backs, Ahmad Bradshaw and Brandon Jacobs, were outgained by Tim Hightower. Wideout Hakeem Nicks' big day was about the only statistical saving grace.

And even he came out of the game with a knee injury, though the Giants aren't yet sure of the severity.

But true to his gung-ho mentality, head coach Tom Coughlin wouldn't allow his team to sulk over the mounting injuries.

"We won't use the injuries as an excuse," said Coughlin. "That's not acceptable. Injuries happen to every team. We were well prepared. We played well in the first half and not in the second half."

Sunday's meltdown was a case of a team still making the small mistakes at critical times.

"There's not one thing. We just have to play better football [because] there's things we need to improve on, things we can look at and see where we can get better from fundamentals, from just doing the right things," Manning said.

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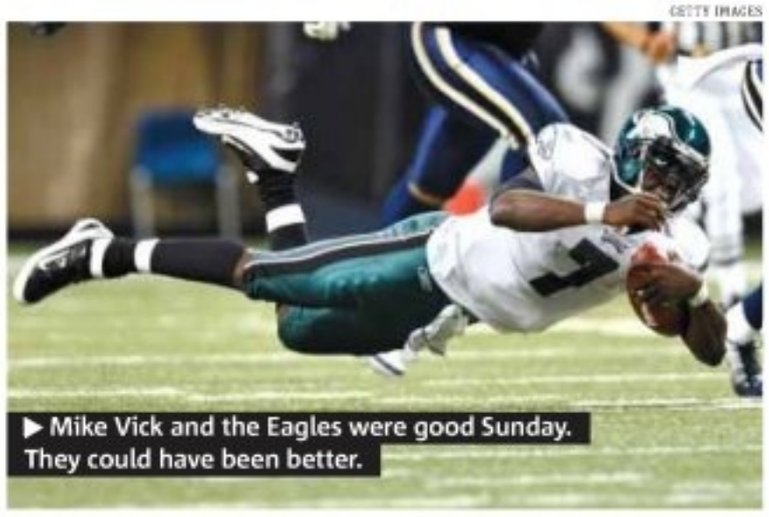

▶ Mike Vick and the Eagles were good Sunday. They could have been better.

There was no cheering in the Eagles locker room late Sunday afternoon. No rah-rah speeches, no pom-pom waving. Nothing.

If the scoreboard didn't read "Eagles 31, Rams 13," the casual observer would have looked at Andy Reid's menacing scowl and thought the team had dropped its season opener.

Maybe that's because the expectations are so high. Or maybe it's because this team sees itself as a real-life video game. Either way, the common mantra is simple: We will get better. We will correct our mistakes.

"As coaches, we are a little greedy," Reid said. "I want every run covered from the defensive side and every run play to be tackled at the line of scrimmage. We will go back and keep growing as a football team."

Reid was referring to missed tackles on Steven Jackson's 47-yard TD run; the eight penalties, including two delay of game calls; and that would-be touchdown bomb that bounced off DeSean Jackson's hands.

"The type of talent that we have, we can do so much better," LeSean McCoy said. "It's just the little things. There's some stuff that I need to get better at, and down the line. But the fact that we know that makes us a better team."

Last year, the Eagles offense finished No. 2 in total yards (6,230). After Week 1 in 2011, they are fifth (404). Poll the players and the unified response is ... not good enough.

"We understand we're an explosive offense. We understand we can put up points in spurts," Jeremy Maclin said. "But we know we can do better ... [Reid] knows that. He understands that."

Perhaps Mike Vick summed it up best Sunday. "It wasn't pretty, but we got the win."

MIKE GREGER
mgreger@metro.us

In the trenches

The offensive line also knows it must improve to win a Super Bowl. On Sunday, the unit contributed to six of the team's eight penalties (minus-35 yards).

- **Mike Vick**
  Two delay of game calls
- **Jason Peters**
  Holding
- **Kyle DeVan**
  Ineligible man downfield, holding
- **Jason Kelce**
  False start

IN BASEBALL

Phillies in Houston tonight

Cole Hamels will take on old friend J.A. Happ tonight as the Phillies continue their three-game series in Houston (8:05 p.m., PHL 17).

Hamels (14-7, 2.60 ERA) has looked dominant his last three times out. He posted a complete game against Milwaukee, surrendering two runs on four hits, in his most recent start.

Happ (5-15, 5.77) has had an up-and-down campaign. He gave up four runs in five against Pittsburgh in his last start, but threw seven shutout innings against the same team before that. METRO

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NCAA. OU moving?

▶ This could be the scene of Pac-12 games before long.

Going west Soon(ers)

Oklahoma plans to ditch the Big 12 and apply for membership in the Pac-12 by the end of the month, Yahoo Sports reported last night. METRO

Penn close to history

Quakers shooting for first-ever Ivy League football three-peat ◗ Team 'embracing' the challenge ◗ Ragone, Colavita among the returning stars

While the pro team in this city is doing all it can to distance itself from Vince Young's "Dream Team" declaration, the Penn Quakers are embracing such a challenge.

Bidding for the Ivy's League's first-ever outright "three-peat," having won its last 15 league games, Al Bagnoli's gang can't wait to get started.

They open the season Saturday night against Lafayette at Franklin Field, before hosting city rival Villanova a week later.

"It would be historic in terms of our league," said Bagnoli, who needs just three league wins to join Yale's Carm Cozza and Dartmouth's Bob Black-

"It's something that motivates you, challenges you. [It's] something very few teams get a chance to do."
PENN COACH AL BAGNOLI, ON THE QUAKERS' SHOT AT A THREE-PEAT

man as the Ivy's only 100 game winners.

The fact he has a number of returning starters — including All-Ivy quarterback Billy Ragone, leading rusher Brandon Colavita and defensive stalwarts Zach Heller, Eric Rask and Brandon Copeland — back certainly doesn't hurt.

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Djokovic takes his third major of year

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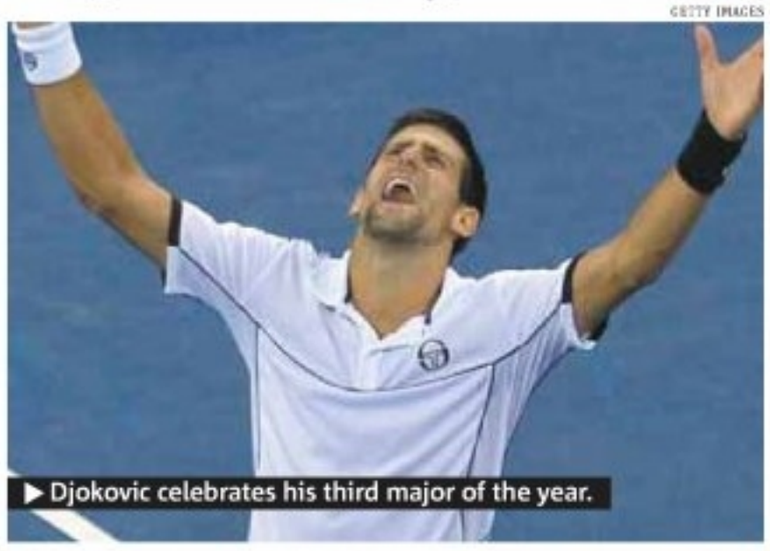

▶ Djokovic celebrates his third major of the year.

Novak Djokovic punctuated perhaps the greatest single season in the history of tennis by smacking yet another crosscourt winner against Rafael Nadal in the final of the U.S. Open and then getting down on his knees and shouting to the crowd in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Top-seeded Djokovic's 6-2, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-1 victory avenged last year's loss to No. 2 Nadal in the Open final and makes him just the sixth man in history to win at least three Grand Slam singles events in the same year.

"It really sounds unreal," Djokovic said. "It's incredible feeling. I had an amazing year and it keeps going, but every time I play Rafa it's a big challenge and I want to congratulate him on a great tournament again. I wish that we have many more tough matches in upcoming years."

Djokovic, now 64-2 in 2011, also won the Australian Open and Wimbledon. He owns four career majors.

"I think [it's] the greatest year we've seen in the sport of tennis, right there," CBS commentator John McEnroe said.

Nadal had dropped just two sets in building a 13-0 record at the Open over the past two years, but Djokovic broke his serve an amazing 11 times in the final.

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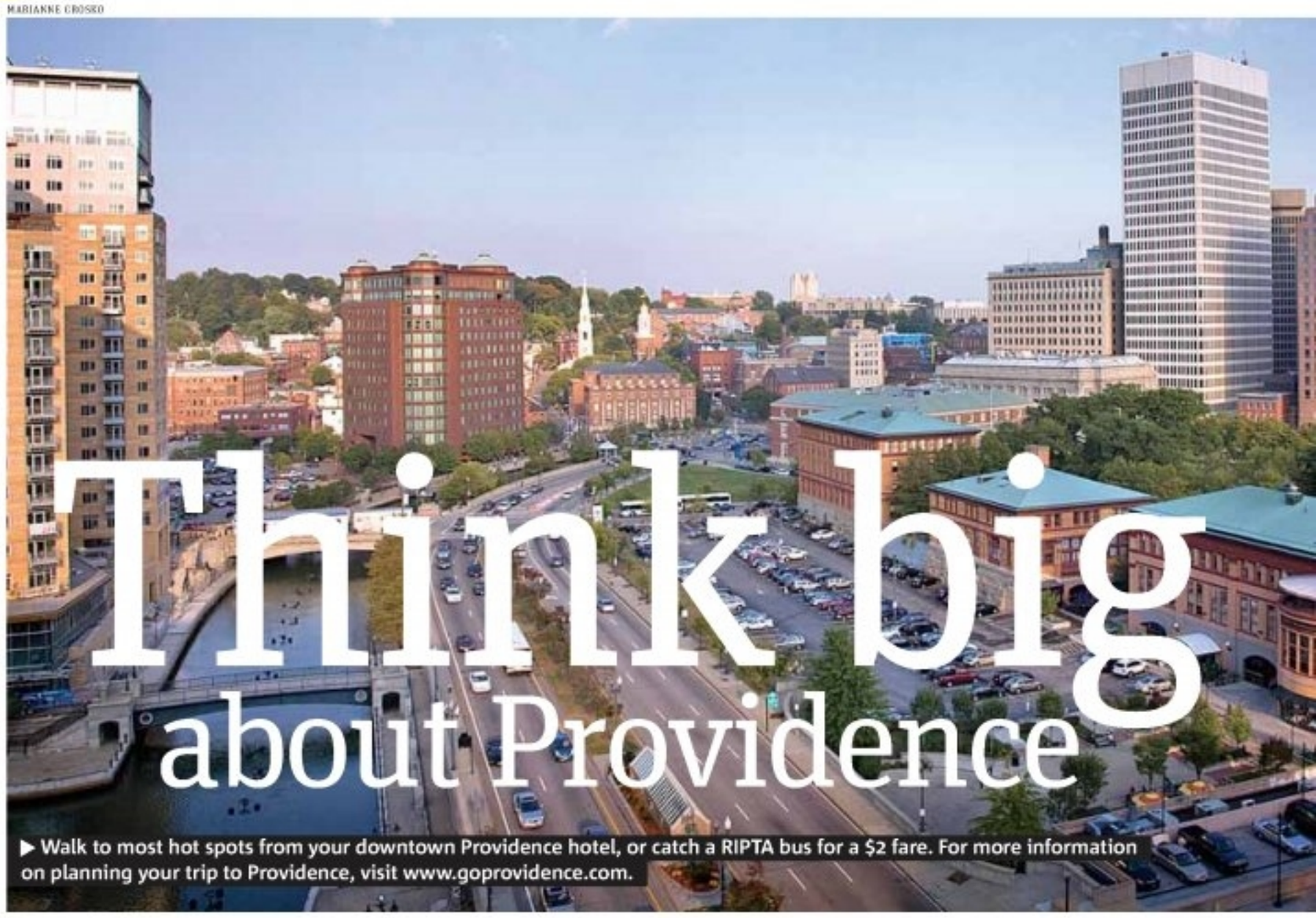
MARIANNE CROSKO



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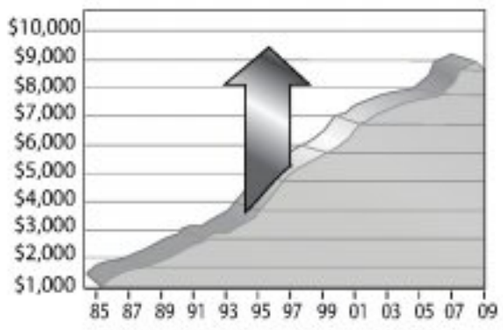
Tom Hill
CGA STAFF WRITER

Every three minutes another person falls behind on credit card debt. It's no wonder, since every major credit card company has nearly doubled the minimum monthly payment on consumers' bills. Federal Regulators forced the change because of their concern about the growing mountain of consumer debt, which stands at $2.17 trillion. Many consumers can only pay the minimum payment, which can take up to 30 years to pay off. Now, relief is in sight for millions of Americans.

U.S. CREDIT CARD DEBT PER HOUSEHOLD ($)



(Data Source: U.S. Federal Reserve)

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Rhode Island's little capital has a huge appetite Why it's quickly gaining momentum as a culinary hot spot How to make a perfect weekend getaway

A vibrant community of young, edgy chefs makes Providence the perfect weekend getaway for East Coast foodies looking to add a little New England flavor to their palates. The tiny capital with big taste buds offers a surprising abundance of diverse restaurants with plenty to keep you busy between meals.

Shop

Head to Thayer Street and lose yourself in vintage stores, contemporary boutiques and unique coffee shops. Be sure to check out the impressive collection of vintage cowboy boots at **NAVA (www.shopnava.com)**.

Eat

For lunch, head to Federal Hill — Providence's Little Italy — and watch your pasta be made by hand in the front window of **Trattoria Zooma (www.trattoriazooma.com)** before heading in and trying it for yourself. For dinner, reserve a seat at the bar of **Nick's on Broadway (www.nicksonbroadway.com)** and watch chef Derek Wagner work his magic in the form of delights like skillet-roasted Block Island striped bass and and vanilla-lime panna cotta with malted crisp. Channel your inner European and wash it down with a Pimms Cup done right. Also, don't miss the gourmet-hip experience of **The Red Fez**. This tiny, dim-lit food Mecca is a trendy place among locals who love to feast on the indulgent menu of chef Ed Reposa. Don't leave without trying the mac and cheese with cheddar, swiss and smoked gouda. Hint: Add chourico. Your late-night craving for something greasy and perfect is covered by **Haven Brothers** food truck, parked at Fulton and Dorrance streets.

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▶ The Haven Brothers food truck has been satisfying late-night cravings since 1988. The Triple Murder Burger was featured on "Man vs. Food."

▶ Nick's on Broadway

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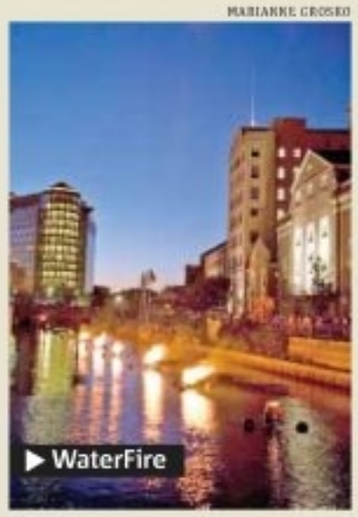

▶ WaterFire

See

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Drink

Order a cocktail and dance with Providence socialites at **Tazza (www.tazzacaffe.com)**, a lounge that feels more like a small club. If dive bars are more your scene, check out **Scurvy Dog (www.scurvydogbar.com)**, a favorite among local hipsters. Or, check out **McBride's Irish Pub**, one of the newest additions to Wayland Square. The bar, which shares its building with a funeral home, offers a nightly pause at 10 p.m. when patrons lift their glasses in memory of the departed.

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